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CARTER & MIZELL CORRESPONDENCE

Family Correspondence Of Griffin and Susannah Mizell, and their son, Matthew, of Telfair County, Georgia (Later of Brooks County, Georgia)

Huxford Genealogical Society
P.O. Box 595
Homerville, GA 31634

GRIFFIN AND SUSANNAH MIZELL
and their son, MATTHEW,
of Telfair County, Georgia
(of later Brooks County, Georgia)

The following papers, mostly letters, are found among the old papers of the late Clifton Mizell and his son, Matthew Mizell, now in the possession of Mrs. P.B. Phillips of Quitman, Georgia, a daughter of Matthew Mizell.

These copies are made from the originals now in Mrs. Phillips' possession, and are verbatim. Some of the spelling was copied verbatim, but in a number of instances the transcriber did not bother to transcribe the misspelling, but corrected some in the copy.

The said Griffin Mizell was born in 1767 and was married in Bulloch County, May 29, 1797, to Susannah Carter, daughter of Matthew Carter, of that county. Griffin Mizell was a son of William Mizell who prior to the creation of Bulloch County, lived in Burke County, Georgia, and was a native of North Carolina. He died November 23, 1846.

Matthew Carter (father of Mrs. Mizell) was also from North Carolina, and married Caranda Barber, who was sister to Mrs. Keziah Cone, wife of William Cone, both families coming from North Carolina to Bulloch County before 1800. Matthew Carter headed a group of his family connection and perhaps including some neighboring families, that moved from Bulloch County, Georgia, to Jackson County, Mississippi, in 1811. He did not live long after moving there, departing this life April 2, 1812. We do not know his age but it was apparently about 60 years at his death. His wife survived him and died after 1832–we do not know just when.

Others of the family connection moving to Mississippi included the following: Matthew Carter, Jr. and family, William Off and his wife Naomi Carter Off, and William Carter, and their respective families, and Jane _____, unmarried. Mrs. Susannah Mizell who remained in Georgia, are all of the known children (at present) of Matthew Carter, Sr.

Included among them moving to Mississippi were: Isaac and Thomas Carter, brothers to Matthew Carter, Sr., and James Mizell, a brother to William Mizell and uncle to Griffin Mizell. There were others who moved to Mississippi but these are all the known family connection to Griffin Mizell and his wife. William Mizell, brother to Griffin, moved to Russell county, Alabama.

COMPILED AND PAPERS COPIED BY: FOLKS HUXFORD, HOMERVILLE, GEORGIA

William Goff, Sr., wife, Sabra Mathis, daughter of Edmund Mathis, R.S. of Duplin County, North Carolina. His wife died in Mississippi, August 29, 1829. He had left Jackson County in 1835 (see letter 12/11/1835) and went west to Florida.

1. Mary Goff — m. William Carter, November 20, 1810
2. Edmond Goff — m. Caranda Carter
3. William Goff — m. 1) Naomi Carter, November 30, 1807; 2) Miss _____ Black. (see letter 10/14/1832)
4. Elizabeth Goff — m. Henry Fletcher, December 18, 1811
5. Susannah Goff (b. 1800, SC) — m. Samuel Davis

James Mizell, R.S., sons, David and Josiah (letter 10/16/1825), son William Mizell (letter 2/3/1833) and youngest son James Mizell (letter 10/14/1832).

THE CHILDREN OF THOSE WHO MOVED TO MISSISSIPPI
AS REVEALED BY THE FAMILY CORRESPONDENCE

William Carter married **Mary Goff**, November 20, 1810 in Bulloch County, Georgia. William born 1783 in South Carolina. Mary born 1788 in North Carolina. William died October 1852.

1. **Sabra Carter**, b. 1811, married after 1837, living in Jasper County, Mississippi in 1846
2. **Caranda Carter**, nothing further known.
3. **Nancy Carter**, married _____ Davis, February 1837
4. **John Carter**, b. 1815 in Mississippi, wife Mary, b. 1825
5. **William Barber Carter**, b. 1816, married after 1848, single 1850
6. **Susannah Carter**, married Wesley G. Evans January 30, 1847
7. **Mary Ann Carter**, b. 1818, single 1850.
8. **Simeon Bird Carter**, born 1823, nothing further known.
9. **Martha Carter**, died before 1852 in childhood
10. **Seaborn Pierson Carter**, died before 1852 in childhood
11. **Elizabeth Carter**, married _____ Mickey in 1846
12. **James Griffin Carter**, died in boyhood 1837

Matthew Carter, b. 1781 in South Carolina, wife 1) Ann, b. 1791 in North Carolina, 2) Nancy (married in Mississippi).

By first wife, Ann:

1. **Elizabeth Carter** married **Thomas Wilson**. Had three children in 1852
2. **Anna Carter** married **James Well** in 1837 (name not plain in letter)
3. **Joseph Carter**, b. 1811, married **Lucinda _____**, b. 1820 in Mississippi.

By second wife Nancy:

4. **Matthew Carter**, nothing further known.
5. **William Carter**, married 1857, his first cousin, **Jane Goff**, b. 1822
6. **Thomas Carter**, b. 1823, wife **Helen**, b. 1822
7. **Mary Carter**, b. 1825
8. **Martha Carter**, b. 1828, married _____ **Brown**
9. **Susannah Carter**, married but husband's name not revealed, died 1850
10. **Wiley Griffin Carter**, b. 1832, not married 1848. Nothing further known.
11. **John Carter**, b. 1834. Nothing further known.

Edmond Goff, b. 1790 in North Carolina, married Caranda_____, b. 1790 in Georgia. Edmond died in 1852.

1. **Harmon Goff**, b. 1814, single 1850. Nothing further known.
2. **Genk Goff**. Nothing further known.
3. **Sarah Goff**, b. 1820. Nothing further known.
4. **Civil Goff**, died in childhood before 1832.
5. **Rebecca Goff**, b. 1823, single 1850. Nothing further known.
6. **Jane Goff**, b. 1816, (afflicted), married **William Carter**, 1857, son of Matthew.
7. **Seaborn Goff**, single 1850. Nothing further known.
8. **Noah Goff**, b. 1818, single 1850. Nothing further known.
9. **Moses Goff**, b. 1828, single 1850. Nothing further known.

William Goff b. 1781 in North Carolina, married **Naomi** _____, November 30, 1807 in Bulloch County, Georgia. She died October 14, 1829.

1. **Wiley Goff**, b. 1813, died before 1832.
2. **David Goff**, died in boyhood 1827.
3. **Susannah Goff**, died in 1832, died in girlhood.
4. **Genk Goff**, drowned January 19, 1933. Unmarried.
5. **Elizabeth Goff**. Nothing further known.
6. **William Goff**, b. 1824. Nothing further known.
7. **Naomi Goff**, b. 1825. Nothing further known.
8. **James Goff**, b. 1829. Nothing further known.

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From: Matthew Carter, Sr. (No Postmark)

Addressed: Griffin Mizell and Susannah, his wife.

Reverse Side: "Directed to Mr. William Williams, Living in the new purchase of Georgia, Jones County, in Clinton. Politeness of Mr. Need." By Hand.

Dear Son and Daughter,

In answer to your request I embrace this opportunity of informing you that we are all in common health at present, hoping that these will find you well. In five weeks and two days we arrive at Chickasawhey without any loss or disappointment of note. We expect in a few days to set out for Pascagola where I have choosed me a place and there expect to settle myself and son William and William Goff all neare together. Matthew has gone to the Pearl River but expects to return at the fall without he likes there extraordinary well. I am well pleased with the prospect of the country for I think it good, that is the cain land, water and range; and how the trade will be is unknown. Now things can be got reasonable. Provisions is hi (high) but we have lade (laid) in a supply of corn and 20 cows and cl- - s.

Let this suffice for the present and when I have got more perfectly acquainted I'll rite more fully. No more at present, but remain bound to you in parential affection:

(Signed)
Matthew Carter

June the 11th day in 1811.
To my daug. Susannah Mizell,
and son-in-law, Griffin Mizell.

Mr. William Williams, Sir:

After my compliments to you, please send this few lines to Mr. Griffin Mizell by the first opportunity.

From: Jane Carter (No Postmark)

Addressed: To Mr. Griffin Mizell, State of Georgia, Telfair County.

June the 11, 1811.

Dear Brother and Sister:

Gladly I embrace the opportunity of writing to you to let you know that we are all well at present, hoping that these few lines will find you in the same state of health. I am not able to satisfy you now way for I have not got to my journey's end but my sister, the lonesome hours I see I am never satisfied than when I am in some lonesome valley there to make my Morn (?) and shed briny tears alone.

Naomi desires to be remembered to you both. I want you to write to me the first chance, my sister. Wish to see you very much. Brother William and Mary desire to be remembered to you both. Could I receive a letter from your hands I would bath it in tears.

So nothing more I bid you a final farewell. Remember me when it goes well with you. So farewell and farewell!!

(Signed)
Jane Carter

Casandra desires to be remembered to you both and to the dear little children.

From: Mrs. Casandra Carter (No Postmark)

Addressed: Mrs Jane Everett, State of Georgia, Bulloch County

November 25th 1811

Dear Children:

These few lines comes in love to you to let you know that we are all well at present, thanks be to God for His mercy, hoping they may find you in the same state of health as we are at present. The old man has a pain in his arm and am afraid will lose the use of it.

We all held out journey better than we expected. We have not had one day's sickness since I left you all, thanks be to God forit. Matthew has got a fine son and calls him Joseph, and William has got a dater (daughter) and calls her name

Sabra.

I have nothing remarkable to relate to you. We have bought a little improvement in the piney woods. The range is very good for cattle and hogs. We sold a horse and bought 03 (30?) head of hogs. We settled the sixth of September. We have got a few cows . We have never suffered. As for being satisfied, I can't relate. The men seems to be satisfied; as for the two girls they are often in tears for you all and wishes to be with you. Naomy and her family is well at present. My heart is so full I can't say no more, but remain your loving Aunt and Mother tel death. We do all desire to be remembered to you all.

Pray don't fail wrighting all opportunities. The last words that ever you git from my mouth I am afeared.

(Signed)
Casandra Carter

Don't fail sending these lines to Susan when you have read them.

From: Matthew Carter, Jr. "Politeness of Peter Cone." By hand.

Addressed: Mr Griffin Mizell, State of Georgia.

Mississippi Territory, Jackson County, March the 1st , 1813.

Dear Brother and Sister:

I now gladly embrace an opportunity of writing a few lines to inform you that through the Mercies of God we are all in perfect health at present, hoping these lines will find you and your family the same. We have enjoyed our health in a wonderful manner ever since we have been in this country and I feel myself very well satisfied with great respect to the country, though the loss of my father and talk of war together with many other things has caused me great trouble and uneasiness of mind, though I have good reason to believe that my loss is his eternal gain. He was taken in October with a pain in his shoulder which continued several weeks and in the time he hurt his leg and a fever fell in it and it was likely to mortify. He was several weeks not able to get out of the house without his crutches, and in a short time after his leg got well he was taken in a lingering condition which continued until he was not able to get out of his bed. He was then taken with fits which continued until he died. He lay several weeks not able to get out of his bed and continued to get weaker until the 2nd of April, in the afternoon, when it pleased God to take him

out of this troublesome world.

I think he bore his affliction with the most patience that I ever saw any person in my whole life. He told my mother a short time before his death that he was willing to go anytime when it pleased the lord to take him.

My dear brother and sister, I am sorrow to hear that you are not satisfied where you are. Peter Cone told me that he understood that you wanted to go back to Ogeechee. I would not wish to persuade you to do anything against your inclination but it is my opinion that it would be much better for you to come to this country than to go back to an old worn out place. This is a fine fresh country, well watered and healthly, and the land produces very well. It is the opinion of the citizens of this country that it will be the best place of trade that is in America, and if you are disposed to come to this country I want you to write to me as soon as you can to let me know what time you can be ready to start for if nothing happens William or myself will be there in October and we will assist you all we can in moving. I do not think you will ever repent in coming. It I only 40 miles from where I live to Mobile where I can buy shugar and coffee on better terms than ever I did in Savannah, and the schooners pass up and down the river and we can get any kind of necessaries from them, and they give a good price for our produce. As for the land I can give you no true account of at this time, some people is of the opinion that we should have a donation rite but it is not yet known how we shall get it.

I have nothing more to write to you. I beg to be remembered to all my enquiring friends. I remain your truly affectionate brother until death:

(Signed)
Matthew Carter

From: Matthew Carter (No Postmark)

Addressed: (address missing)

Mississippi Territory, Jackson County, March the 10th, 1816.

Dear Brother and Sister:

I have the happiness of informing you that I am in perfect health at present, and after a tedious journey of 19 days from the time I have left your house I arrived safe at home and found my old mother and my little children all in perfect health except my little son, he is in a kind of lingering way but no more than when I left him. I met with no difficulty in my journey except wet weather and a bad road which made it very disagreeable traveling.

It is true I was a little alarmed in the nation on being informed that the Indians had killed two men on the Alabama a few days before, but after further inquiry I was informed that it was some men going up the river in order to settle on a place _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ (about six words illegible) hostile Indians which was the cause of their being killed. I have heard since of some more mischief being done but whether it be true or not I cannot tell. I have not heard of their interrupting any person that was traveling (two words illegible) all that I have seen of them appeared very friendly.

My old mother desires to be remembered to you and to inform you that she enjoys as great health as she ever had (about 5 words illegible) has the greatest desire to see you all. My brothers and sisters are all well at this time. My sister Casandra has got a daughter and calls her name Jane. Polly has got a son and calls his name William Barbour.

I have conversed with my brothers and sisters about the money Mr. Williams is owing us and we have concluded not to do anything else about it until the fall as I expect to have to-----to help you about moving.

I want you to write to me the first opportunity to let me know whether you intend coming or not. If you do I want you to write to me what time you will be ready to start and I will try to come provided to assist you all that I can. Give my compliments to Mr. Fletcher and tell him that I like this country much better than I did before I saw his.

I have nothing more to write to you at present, so I remain,

Your truly affectionate brother,

(Signed)
Matthew Carter

From: Matthew Carter

Postmarked: Jackson County Court-house, March 26th

Addressed: Mr. Griffin Mizell, Georgia, Telfair County.

Mississippi State, Jackson County, March 25th, 1821.

Dear Brother and Sister:

These lines will inform you that myself and family are in reasonable health at present, hoping these lines will find you and yours enjoying the same.

Dear brother, agreeable to your request when I left you I shall here give you a short account of my journey. The weather being wet and cold and the

road being bad made my journey disagreeable. I had to several times strip of my clothes and swim though I have great reason to be thankful for among all the difficulties and dangers that I met with I enjoyed perfect health all the way and on Monday, the 22nd January, I got safe home and found my family all in good health.

I have not settled the business concerning the note on David Williams yet in consequence of the heirs not being all agreed for it to be settled in the way that we were talking about when I was at your house, and as you wished me to act for you in the division of the Estate I want you to send me a power of an attorney as some the heirs appears to be obstinate, and I wish to have everything done correct.

Tell Mr. Fletcher I did not call Mr. Lott on my return home but saw a person that lived within six miles of him, who informed me that they were well.

I have nothing more to inform you of at present, only the family connection is all in good health at this time. Please to send the power of an attorney enclosed in a letter directed to Jackson County Post Office as quick as you can as I wish to have the business settled as soon as I can.

I remain, Your Affectionate Brother,

(Signed)
Matthew Carter

From: Matthew Carter and wife, Ann Postmarked: Jackson, OH Sept. 8th

Addressed: Griffin Mizell, State of Georgia, Telfair County Post Office

Mississippi State, Jackson County, September 8th, 1822.

Dear Brother and Sister:

We received your letter of the 21st July within 13 days from the time it was mailed and was very glad to hear from you. Our family is at present in good health. My brother and sister and families is all in good health at present. Our mother is also well and desires to be remembered to you. She has quit housekeeping and is living about amongst us.

Our crops this years is not very good. We had a storm on the 9 of July that hurt our corn and cotton very much but I hope I shall make a plenty for – part.

James Wyatt is yet living with me and desires to be remembered to you all.

My dear brother, I thank you for the advice you gave me with respect to having preaching in our settlement. We have had regular preaching this year once in three weeks within 4 miles and once in 6 weeks at my house. Some few has joined

our Society and I hope we shall have better times than we have had. I want you to write me every opportunity and I will endeavor to do the same.

We remain as here-to-fore,

Your Loving Brother, Sister,

(Signed)
Matthew and Ann Carter

From: Matthew Carter (No Postmark/Missing)

Addressed: Mr Griffin Mizell, State of Georgia, Telfair County.

Mississippi State, Jackson County, 26th October, 1822

Dear Brother and Sister:

I have once more taken my pen in hand to write you a few lines to inform you that we are all in good health at present except one of the small children who has had the ague and fever about three weeks but is much on the mend at this time.

The family connection is generally well. We have great reason to be thankful to almighty God that while sickness has been raging through our land and country, we have been devoured in a wonderful manner. This has been the sickliest season that I have ever experienced in this country but very few have died.

I do not know what to write, not knowing whether you have received my last letter or not. The last letter I received from you was mailed at Clinton which caused me to think your mail was discontinued and you had not received my answer. If it is so I want you to write to me where to direct my next letter. I have nothing more to write to you at present.

I remain as here-to-fore,

Your Affectionate Brother,

(Signed)
Matthew Carter

From: Matthew Carter

Postmarked: Jackson, C.H., Miss.
November 29, 1823. $ .25

Addressed: Mr. Griffin Mizell, State of Georgia, Telfair County

Mississippi State, Jackson County, 23rd November.

Dear Brother:

I received your letter dated the 2nd September which gave me great satisfaction to hear that you were all well, and through Divine mercy these lines leave us in good health. We have had no sickness of consequences since I wrote last. Our relations in this country is all in good health at this time.

William and Casandra has had the misfortune to lose their youngest children since I wrote you last. Casandra has had another daughter since and calls her name Rebecca. Polly had a son born last Thursday but it has no name. We have had another son since I wrote to you and we call his name Thomas. My old mother is yet alive and in good health and wishes to be remembered to you all.

We have made very sorry crops this year owing to the great quantity of rain and high freshes. With regard to religion it appears to be on a stand in our settlement. We have only thirteen members in the Society.

I have nothing more to write at present. Nancy and the children wishes to be remembered to you all. I remain as ever,

Your Affectionate Brother,

(Signed)
Matthew Carter

From: Matthew Carter Postmarked: Jackson C.H. Miss. October 29th $.25

Addressed: Mr. Griffin Mizell, State of Georgia, Telfair County

Mississippi State, Jackson County, October the 16th , 1825

Dear Brother and Sister:

I take up my pen once more to let you know that through the mercies of God myself and family with all the family connection is in good health at present.

My old mother is yet living and in tolerable good health. She has no particular place of abode; she lives sometimes with one and then another of us. She is at William Goff's at this time.

We have had a very healthy season in the country though Mobile has been very afflicted with the yellow fever. There has been a great many people died there this summer. We have made tolerable good crops this year.

The last letter I received from you was dated 22nd September, 1824 and in consequence of our mail being discontinued I could not answer it as soon as I would have done but it comes now regular and I hope you will not neglect writing as soon as you can as I have a great desire to hear from you.

I feel somewhat dissatisfied with the place I now live in consequence of the overflowing River, though I have a plenty of good land and good trade and enjoy good health, yet the inconvenience occasioned by the freshes make me feel rather dissatisfied, though I have not determined whether I shall try to move or not. I wish you to write me whether you have any thought of moving or not. If you have I hope there will be a probability of our getting nearer together.

We have had one daughter since I wrote you last, and call her name Mary. Sister Naomi has had one and calls it after herself. Your Uncle James Mizell and family was well a few days past. David and Josiah is both married.

And now, my dear brother and sister, I am about to close my letter and if we never should see each other again in this world I have hope that we shall meet in a better where parting will be no more. Fare well!

(Signed)
Matthew Carter

From: Matthew Carter (No Postmark)

Addressed: (Missing)

Mississippi State, Jackson County, May the 25, 1826.

Dear Brother:

I received your letter dated the 9th January a few weeks since and was truly glad to hear from you once more (about six words illegible here) efforts of seeing you a few (about four or five words illegible here) you that we are all in good health for which (illegible) to be thankful to Almighty God for his continued mercies. Our relations in this country is generally all well except Sister Casandra; she has been somewhat (illegible) for some time. Mother is yet living and enjoys good health and

reason better than could be expected of one of her age. She is at this time at Edmund Goff's but I expect her at my house this evening.

With regards to moving I can say nothing more than this: If I could sell my possessions which (illegible) at any time I (illegible about three words) to meet you somewhere about the place you mentioned in the letter.

My eldest daughters is both married, Elizabeth to Thomas Wilson from North Carolina and (illegible) James Well? from Georgia, Bryant County, (illegible words here) I hope they will (illegible) do (illegible word) inspecting your cattle that I have (illegible) they do not increase very fast. The range is considerably broke. I believe there is between 25 and 30. Matthew has four head from the calf his grandmother gave him two cows, one two-year old heifer and one steer yearling.

If you will not neglect writing us every opportunity I want you in your next to let me know how Jincy is coming one and where she is living, also whether James Williams' wife is dead or not. We have heard she was. I have nothing more to write at present; I remain as heretofore,

Your Affectionate Brother

(Signed)
Matthew Carter

From: Matthew Carter Postmarked: Jackson C.H. Miss. June 11th ,1827

Addressed: Mr. Griffin Mizell, Georgia, Telfair County, Jacksonville

Mississippi State, Jackson County, June 10th , 1827.

Dear Brother and Sister:

We received your letter dated the 21st February which gave us great satisfaction to hear from you once more. I now take up my pen to let you know something of our circumstances with regard to our health. It is tolerable good at present. Nancy has been somewhat unwell for sometime but is at this time much on the mend. The connection generally is well at this time. Brother William Goff has lost one of his sons I believe, since I wrote last; he was about 11 years old; he bled to death at the nose. Mother is yet living and in good health. She is with Sister Casandra at this time. I expect her at my house on Wednesday next.

With regard to your cattle they are doing tolerable well. Matthew has had bad luck; two of his cows died last winter; he has only one cow and calf and one two-year old calf left.

I believe I promised in my last letter to give you a more correct account of our Camp-meeting which was held at our meeting house last fall. It commenced on Thursday and continued until Monday morning. There was a great number of serious well-behaved people and the Lord was truly present from the beginning, but on Sunday night was the greatest time I ever saw; a great number fell to the ground and cried for mercy while others were singing and shouting praises to God. How many was converted I never ascertained, but among these that was converted my daughter Anna and her husband and Bro. William's and eldest daughter was the happy sharers in the Divine blessings; and blessed be God the work is still going on. A great revival has taken place since that time. We now have a Society near 30 members. Bro. William's daughter Nancy and William Goff's eldest daughter have joined the Society, also Thomas Wilson my other son-in-law; and I hope the Lord will carry on His work until the whole world shall come to know HimWhom to know his life eternal.

And now, my dear brother and sister, I hope you will not let it be long before you write to me again for I should be glad to hear from you every month. I have nothing more to write to you at present. I remain,

Your Affectionate Brother

(Signed)
Matthew Carter

From: Matthew Carter and Ann, His Wife.

Postmarked: Jackson C.H. Miss.
November 5th $.25 pd.

My Dear Brother and Sister:

We received your letter a few days since dated the 11th July, which gave us great satisfaction to hear from you. We are all well and through mercy we are all in good health at present except Mother; she has been unwell e few days past with a sick stomach but has nearly recovered. Our relations is generally well.

We received your other letter of the 21st February last which I answered a short time after but I suppose you never received it; The reason why I cannot account for.

I have nothing of much importance to write to you at present. The drought has been very fatal among us this year. Our crops is very much injured but I hope we have made a plenty to support on. With regard to our circumstance we are blessed with plenty to live on though times is pretty hard. Money source, produce of every kind very low, but the conveniency of a good market enables us to get such

necessaries as we need, on very good terms through the City of Mobile has been very injured a few weeks past by fire which consumed near three hundred houses with a great deal of other property.

My dear brother and sister, I should be truly glad to see you once more in this world but I fear I never shall. With regard to moving I can say but little about it. I see no probability of selling my land to my advantage. If you should be so fortunate as to get this letter I hope you will write in a short time, and direct your letters as you have formerly done. I have nothing more to inform you at present. Mother wishes to be remembered to you all. Give our love to all the family and to all enquiring friends.

(Signed)
Matthew Carter
Ann Carter

From: Matthew Carter Postmarked: Jackson C.H. Miss. Nov. 25, 1828 3 PM

Addressed: Mr. Griffin Mizell, Georgia, Telfair Co. Copeland.

Mississippi State, Jackson County.
November the 16th , 1828.

Dear Brother and Sister:

I once more take up my pen to write a few lines to you to let to let you know that we through the mercies of God enjoy pretty good health at present. We have had a very healthy season this year. Our relations in this country are all in good health. Mother is yet alive and in good health. She is at this time with Sister Casandra.

Our crops are generally pretty good except cotton; that is almost entirely ruined by the rot. We have been very much plagued this year with the blowing-flies. I never saw the like before. They have killed a number of cattle and sheep and injured our hogs very much. They had even blowed our horses and dogs but I hope the frost we had last night will put a stop to them.

I will give you some account of our Camp-meeting which commenced on Thursday the 2nd of October, last, and concluded on Monday. Though there was nothing very extraordinary occurred during the meeting it was a very solemn time and I hope much good was done. How many was converted I have not yet ascertained but I have reason to believe there was a considerable number, and I think I can say of a truth that it was as happy a time among the people of God as I ever

saw.

I must now draw to a close. I hope you will not neglect writing as often as convenient for I am glad to hear from you at anytime. Naomi and the children all join me in love to you all and wishes to remembered affectionately to all the family. Farewell!

(Signed)
Matthew Carter

Your old Uncle, James Mizell, is yet alive. I saw him at Camp-meeting, and the most of his family; they were all well at that time.

From: Matthew Carter. Postmarked: Jackson C.H. June 9th.

Addressed: Mr Griffin Mizell, State of Georgia, Telfair County.

Mississippi State, Jackson County. June the 7th, 1829.

Dear Brother and Sister:

I once more take up my pen to let you know that we are all well and alive and enjoy pretty good health at present, for which we desire to be thankful. We received your letter of the 23rd of April, which gave us great satisfaction to hear from you once more, but I am at a loss to know what is the reason for my letters being miscarried for I can assure you that I have not failed to answer every letter I have received from you.

Our crops is very backward and not very likely. We have had a hard winter and a backward Spring. It was a fatal time among our cattle. Five cows out of your little stock is missing this Spring and I expect dead. The times is dull in this part of the country but now as much so I expect as where you live. We have the advantage of a good market. I have declined the idea of moving at present as I hope it will not be long before we have better times. There is now a town laid out at the mouth of the Pascagoula River and several houses put up in the course of a few months past, and there is the largest kind of vessels can come in. I think if you wish to move you will do well to take your horse next fall and come see us. It would not cost you much.

Sister Jane is still living with Casandra but I hope not as formerly. I think there has been a change for the better. Mother is yet living and enjoys perfect health. She is at this time with Casandra. Your Uncle James and his wife is in a low state of health. The rest of the family I believe is well. Casandra has had a son since

I wrote you last, and call him Moses. William's wife has also had one but not named yet.

I have nothing more to write to you at present. I remain as ever ,

Your Affectionate Brother

(Signed)
Matthew Carter

From Matthew Carter Postmarked, Jackson Court-house, Miss. Free. Oct. 1st .

Addressed: Mr Griffin Mizell, State of Georgia, Telfair County.

Mississippi State, Jackson County, Sept. 26, 1830.

My Dear Brother and Sister:

I have once more taken up my pen to give you some information of our situation if it can be so fortunate as to reach you. With regard to our health we have been very much blessed and are in reasonable health at present. Our crops is very sorry by reason of the drought which commenced about the first of July and continued near four weeks, and we are suffering very much for rain at this time. We have had but very little rain in six weeks. Our peas and rice is almost ruined.

Our relation is all in good health, that is, alive, but since I wrote last Sister Naomi has gone to a world of spirits. She departed this life on the 14th October last, I believe in perfect peace, without a struggle or a groan. She has left seven children to lament the loss of a tender mother. Her youngest child was near two years old.

Mother Goff is also taken from us. She departed this life on the 29th of August, 1829. She bore her affliction with great patience and died in the triumphs of faith.

I have received two letters from you of late, one dated 1st of July and the other 2nd of September, and I must confess that I have been neglectful about writing since that time but the reason why I did not write before was I was informed by Mr. Enoch Everett who had just returned from Georgia that he was told that you had moved, so that I did not know where to direct my letters until I received yours of the 1st July, but I will try and not give you room to complain of my neglect any more as long as I am able to write or know where to direct my letters.

With regard to moving I have quit the notion and commenced building. I have a pretty good house nearly completed all but the chimney. I think

you stated in your last letter that you had thought of moving somewhere and I should be glad if you could come and see this country before you move, though times are pretty hard here at present and money very hard to get, but I think there is prospect of better times in a short time.

Your Uncle, James Mizell, and family, is in pretty good health. Mother is yet alive and in pretty good health. I do not know that she has had one day's sickness since I wrote last. She has stayed with William Goff most of the time since Naomi died but she is at this time with Sister Casandra.

Our Camp-meeting will commence the 21st of October and if I should be spared until that time I will try to write again; and if you should be so fortunate as to get this letter I hope you will write again. I could write a good deal more but as I expect to write again in a short time I shall forebear. I remain as ever,

Your Affectionate Brother,

(Signed)
Matthew Carter

From: Matthew Carter Postmarked: Jackson C.H. Miss. Free. April 6th.

Addressed: Mr Griffin Mizell, Telfair County, Georgia.

Mississippi State, Jackson County, April the 3rd, 1831.

Dear Brother and Sister:

I have once more taken up my pen to give you some information of our present situation. Myself and family with all the family connection is in reasonable health at this time though we have been somewhat afflicted this spring with colds something like the spring with influenza. There has been several deaths of late though none of our relations.

You requested me in your last letter to give you a more particular account of Sister Naomi's sickness and death which was as follows: They had moved sometime before on the west side of Pascagoula River where we had bought a tract of land and settled where they were nearly surrounded with water in the time of a freshet which was what I think was the cause of her sickness. Brother William, herself, and youngest child was all taken sick about the same time. She was I think taken sick on Sunday and the next Sunday I heard from them I felt very uneasy and told my wife if I lived to see Monday morning I would go and see them but the same day their son Matthew put them in a cart and brought them over the river intending

day their son Matthew put them in a cart and brought them over the river intending to come to my house but she could not. They got within three miles of one of his brother's and sent for me and Brother William. We went and found her quite senseless and almost helpless but in a short time her fever abated and she came to her senses. We stayed until nearly day next morning; Brother William went very early to assist them to his house. As soon as they came I went to see her. She appears to be almost clear of a fever and walked several times across the house but in a short time her fever returned with more violence than ever, which in a short time deprived her of her senses again. This was on Monday about one o'clock; from that time she spoke no more. She lay in this condition until Wednesday evening when she breathed her last without a struggle or a groan. Brother Goff is living at the same place with his little children and doing very well. His eldest daughter is a fine worthy girl and provides well for the children.

Our mother is yet living and enjoys reasonable health. She has beena little unwell this spring but has nearly recovered. She wishes to be remembered to you all.

We have had a very hard winter and backward spring. We have lost a great many of our cattle. I hope will write again as soon as you receive this letter, if you should be so fortunate as to get it. Remember us to all the family. I remain as ever,

Your Affectionate Brother,

(Signed)
Matthew Carter

From: Matthew Carter (No Postmark)

Address: (missing). (Evidently sent by mail but outer sheet missing)

Mississippi State, Jackson County, August 12, 1832.

Dear Brother:

I received your letter dated 26 July and have taken up my pen once more to write a few lines to inform you of our present situation. Through mercy we are all alive, and in reasonably good health at present. Our friends and relations is generally well. Our aged mother is yet alive and in good health. We have had one more son born since I wrote last, and call his name Wyley Griffin.

We have had a fatal drought in this county in some parts. There is but very little corn made though we have been highly favored. I hope we will make a plentiful support.

I have wrote so many letters that you never received that I am at a loss to know what to write. If you should be so lucky as to get this letter I wish you to write immediately. Which will encourage me to write again. I have wrote several times concerning your cattle but I suppose you never received my letters. The range is entirely broke and our cattle is on the decline. We have lost a great many in the few years past and I wish to write me whether I shall sell them or not.

I shall not write much at present, not knowing whether you will get it or not, for I must confess I have been almost discouraged from writing at all. Please give our best respects to all enquiring friends. To I must bid you adieu for the present.

(Signed)
Matthew Carter

From: Matthew Carter. Postmarked: Jackson C H. Oct. 17th

Addressed: Mr. Griffin Mizell, Copeland P.O., Ga.

Mississippi, Jackson County, October 14th, 1852

Dear Brother:

We received you letters of the 6th September and was glad to hear from you once more. Through mercy we are all in middling health. Our relation in this country is generally well except Brother William's son Simeon. He was been unwell a few days. William Goff's family had some sickness this season but they have recovered. Our mother's family had some sickness this season but they have recovered. Our mother is yet alive. She has been a little unwell of late occasioned by the St. Anthony's fire on her leg, but she is nearly well at this time. She is with Casandra at this time. She has no particular place of residence. She stays with one of us and then with another. She appears to be perfectly satisfied with any of us. She does not suffer for anything to make her comfortable in this life.

Jane is yet living with Casandra but I hope she has taken a thought for the better. She and her eldest son is both members of the Society. Casandra and her two eldest daughters is real shouting Methodists. Brother William Goff was married not long since to a daughter of old Malcolm Black from North Carolina. She is nearly forty years of age but was never before married.

Your Uncle, James Mizell, is yet living and is in good health as could be expected of a person of his age. He lives with his son William. His children is all married except his youngest son James.

My daughter Elizabeth has three children, Mary, Frances and Sabra. Anna has only one, a son of near five years old.

I heard from old Uncles Isaac and Thomas Carter not long since. They and family was in good health. Both of Uncle Isaac's daughters is dead. Old Uncle Pool has been dead for several years. Aunt Sarah is yet living and in good health. William Pool and his family was all living a few weeks since except his eldest daughter Sarah. He has four children married; Sarah, Harriet, David and Casandra.

I have given you in my former letters a correct account of the deaths and births that has occurred among us since we have been in this country but as you have not received all of my letters I expect you have not heard of all. I will therefore in this letter give you a list of their names as they came into the world beginning with my own: By my second wife, Matthew, William, Thomas, Mary, Martha, Susannah and Wyley Griffin. William Carter's: Sabra, Casandra, Nancy, John, William Barbour, Susannah, Maryann, Simeon Bird, Martha, Seaborn, Pierson, Elizabeth, James Griffin. William Goff's: Wyley, David, Susannah, Jincy, Elizabeth, William, Naomi, James. Edmund Goff's: Harmon, Jincy, Sarah, Civil, Rebecca, twins both dead, Moses, poor unfortunate Jane, Seaborn and Noah.

You will observe those names with a mark over them is those that is members of the Society and those with a mark under them is those that have died. (See note by compiler) My three children by my first wife are all members if Society and William Goff's two eldest is also members I must now come to a close. I wish if you are so fortunate as to get this letter that you would write again as soon as you can. Myself and Nancy and the children would be affectionately remembered to you all. So I bid you farewell.

(Signed)
Matthew Carter

Compiler's Note:

Names of children referred to above as having marks over there names were: Matthew a son of Matthew Carter and the writer; William Carter's children, Sabra, Casandra, Nancy, William, and Susannah. William Goff's daughter Jincy. Edmund Goff's children Jincy, Sarah and Seaborn. They were all at that time members of the Methodist Society.

Names of those referred to in the letter above as having "a mark under them" meaning those that had died, were: William Carter's children Martha and Seaborn.

William Goff's children Wyley, David, Susannah. Edmund Goff's child Civil.

Folks Huxford

From: Matthew Carter Postmark: Jackson C.H. Miss. Feb. 5th . Free

Addressed: Mr. Griffin Mizell, State of Georgia, Telfair County.

Mississippi, State: Jackson County, February 3rd , 1833

Dear Brother and Sister:

We received your letter dated the 20th December. We were glad to hear that you were in the enjoyment of good health. Myself and family is in reasonable health at present. Our connection is generally well. Our aged mother is yet alive and in the enjoyment of good health. She wishes to be remembered to you all. Your Uncle, James Mizell, is yet living but almost overcome by old age so that he is not able to see to his affairs. He lives with his son William.

I have now to give you the account of the death of William Goff's eldest daughter. On Saturday evening the 19th January she in company with my daughter Ann and her husband and another young woman was coming a short distance down the River in a small boat after dark and the boat run under some brush which gave the women a scare and they upset the boat. After being twice taken to the boat she sunk and rose no more. The others held to the bottom of the boat until they floated down the river near a quarter of a mile when a man at the house heard them and went to their assistance and got them to the shore. We have reached for her almost ever since but all in vain. I shall omit saying anything more on the heart-rending subject at present but if you should be so fortunate as to get this letter I will try in my next to give you a true statement of her life and death which I think will be a matter of joy to you rather than grief.

I will now draw to a close, requesting you to write again immediately. Please present our warmest regard to all the family and all enquiring friends. Adieu!

(Signed)
Matthew Carter

From: Miss Sabra Carter. Postmarked: Jackson C.H. Miss. Dec. 23rd

Addresses: Mr. Griffin Mizell, Jacksonville, Ga.

Jackson County, December 11th, 1835.

Dear Uncle and Aunt:

It is with a heart of sincere feelings that I do once again commence writing a few lines to you and do confess with shame that I have neglected you though it is not because I had forgotten you by no means. Therefore I beg your forgiveness which I hope you will grant; and intend for the future to try and do better.

When I received your letter Uncle Matthew said he intended writing in a short time which he has not yet done. It is likely he will write when he returns home. He is at this time gone on a journey up to the new purchase to look at the land where old Uncle Thomas Carter has settled. Father also has gone with him. It is something like two weeks since they have left home.

With regard to the health of the family I can say at this time they are enjoying tolerable good health, though there has been considerable sickness in the family this fall, and generally upon this river. It is thought that the fresh waters being up nearly all this season was the cause of so much sickness.

Father and Uncle has made verry sorry crops this year, verry indeed. They are almost in the notion of moving if they knew where they could do better.

Dear Uncle and Aunt, I do really feel at a loss for a subject to write on. I have nothing new, strange nor interesting to inform you of. For which I am verry sorry for I can only ask again, my dear cousins, the kind favours of a letter from you, but I need not attempt to describe my feelings in those letters. A mixture of sympathy and joy appeared to enlist the feelings of my heart while I could not suppress the tears from my eyes, though unacquainted with you and fear I ever shall see my dear uncle and aunt and cousins one and all. What a consolation it would be to us could we see you and enjoy your company, but as that privilege is denied us I would say let us learn in all things to be content and endeavor to live the life of righteous that when we fail on earth we may be prepared to meet at the right hand of the Majesty on high. Yes, my dear cousins, there we shall be done committing our thought to paper, where faith shall be swallowed in sight, where no more hills and mountains will separate the children of God, where tears will all be wiped away, where afflictions, distresses and separations will be no more, where the Shepherd with His cousins, you twine about my heart; I fain would see you this evening was it in my power but no, no. I can only say "Go on in the strength of God and he will direct your paths." May God pour out His spirit upon you, and shield you in this life and finally may we all meet in Heaven is my prayer.

We have never heard from Father Goff since he left us and I fear we

shall never see him again. I should be glad if ever you hear from him that you would let us know it, and also write that some of you will come to visit us in a short time. Do not say two or three years; the time is too long. No more at present, but Yours in much love:

To Griffin Mizell and Susannah Mizell.

(Signed)
Sabra Carter

From: Miss Sabra Carter. Postmarked, Mobile, Ala. Nov. 26, 1837.

Addressed: Mr Griffin Mizell, Telfair County, Ga.

Jackson County, November 18th , 1837.

Dear Dear Uncle:

By the kind providence of our Maker I am permitted to commence another letter to you which I done sometime ago or at least I directed it to cousin Elizabeth in answer to hers which she wrote to me while in Florida. Whether she ever received mine or not it is unknown to me. I have looked with the anxious expectation of receiving one from some of you but never have. I therefore feel resolved to write again though I have nothing of much importance to inform you of, more than we are all enjoying tolerable health at this time with the exception of my dear father; he is not well and, I fear, never will be again. His rheumatic pains have got so severe we think they throw him into high fevers and that very common.

The connection generally is well at this time though there has been considerable sickness among them since I wrote to you. Yes, my dear Uncle, I do with a sorrowful heart inform you of the death of my dear little brother, James Griffin. The Lord hath seen proper in His wisdom to remove him from time to eternity but we are not called to mourn as those who have no hope, because Jesus hath said "Suffer little children to come unto me and forbid them not, for of such is the kingdom of God." Oh, my lovely Griffin is no more; he has no more a seat in the schoolhouse; he is done leading his class and I have no doubt but he is now resting in the Paradise of God. This was a consolation to us while we were taking our last farewell of that lovely face until we meet at that day for which all other days were made.

I will also inform you that sister Nancy was married in the month of February last, and is now living about forty miles below us upon the Bay Beluxy (Biloxi) near the seashore. She married a man by the name of Davis, a nephew of old George Davis who I presume you were acquainted with. There was entire approbation on both sides.

I should be more lengthy was I sure that you would receive this, but as it is uncertain I shall endeavor to conclude. Father says to inform you that he is owing you a little; he is ready and willing to settle. He wishes very much for you or some of the family to come out.

Uncle Matthew Carter speaks of moving in a short time though not very far from where he is now living. I wish you to write if you please, as soon as you receive this, and write when some of you will come out. I saw Aunt Casandra and Aunt Jane a few days ago. They wish very much to be remembered to you all. Father, mother and all family wishes to be remembered to you all in much love.

(Signed)
Sabra Carter

From: Miss Susan Carter — Outer sheet with postmark missing.

Addressed: Griffin Mizell. — Outer address missing.

Miss. Jackson County, November 30th , 1844.

Dear Uncle:

I have thought for several months past that I would send you a few lines in order to let you know how your friends are getting along in this section of the country, and hope that I shall thereby hear from you and your dear family. As you have always been so good as to answer my unworthy letters.

This will inform you that we are all in the enjoyment of tolerable health at this time, thanks be to God for His blessings. Father and Mother is always complaining and often say that they make no calculation on ever seeing another day without suffering, but I hope that God will sanctify the afflictions of their bodies to good of their never-dying souls. I believe that our connections here are generally well. Aunt Casandra Goff has been sick for a few weeks past but has recovered again. Cousin Harmon Goff has been sick for three or four months past but has nearly recovered.

I saw Uncle Matthew Carter a few days ago and himself and family were all well. We insist upon his writing but complains that he is so much out of practice of that he can scarcely write at all, but will almost promise that he will write once more.

Sister Casandra lives in one mile of us. She had her family are well. Sister Sabra is living in Jasper County about one hundred and twenty miles from us. Sister Mary has been staying with her this summer; they were well when we heard from them.

Dear Uncle, I have nothing of any great importance to write. There seems to be no great alteration in the times either with regard to temporal or religious matters. Our Camp-meeting is just over. we had a tolerable good meeting. There were 23 joined the church. Aunt Casandra's last son and son-in-law joined and I have not ascertained how many conversions there were.

Dear Uncle, I hope that you will write. I am anxious to hear from you. I often think of you all with feelings I cannot well describe for I (fear) that I shall never enjoy the pleasure (of) seeing you in this life, but I hope that we shall meet in a better world than this where parting will be no more, where sickness, sorrows, pain and death are felt and feared no more. Yes, I feel determined by the grace of God to meet you, but I know too I

am liable to err. I am yet in an enemy's land and I want you as long as you can recollect the name of your unworthy niece, to pray for me.

Father says tell Cousin Matthew that he must come out and see us. All of the family joins me in love to you and Aunt Susannah and to all of the family. No more at present, but remains,

Your Affectionate Niece until Death,

(Signed)
Susan Carter

From: Miss Susan Carter. Postmarked, Jackson C.H. March 7th. $ .10

Addressed: Mr. Griffin Mizell, Troupville, Lowndes Co. Ga.

Mississippi, Jackson County, March 16, 1846.

Dear Uncle:

By the kind providence of God I am again permitted to drop you a few lines. We received your kind letter written to Father some five or six weeks ago and I intended to have written immediately but having nothing of importance to write I have neglected it until now, and I now avail myself of the opportunity of addressing you these few lines which will inform you that we are all yet alive and are at this time in the enjoyment of tolerable good health. Father and mother feels the effects of old age very sensibly and is always afflicted with pains in her knees and ankles which hurt her very much.

Elizabeth was married last Oct. to a man by the name of McKey; be as far as I know anything about him, is a very industrious, respectable young man. She lives in about 25 miles of us. William and Mary is now gone on a visit up to Jasper County to see Sister Sabra and I expect will return in a few weeks. I believe that our connection and friends seem generally well. Uncle Henry Fletcher has been very sick and like to die but I understand he is likely to recover.

I saw some of Edmond Goff's family yesterday and they were all well. Uncle Edmond has lately been to Texas but does not like the country at all. Uncle Matthew's family I believe, are all well. Cousin Elizabeth Wilson's eldest daughter is married. She was taken about five weeks ago with a severe pain in the head and was delirious directly, and was very sick for several days. She has got some better but complains a great deal yet and is delirious at times.

We have for our preacher this year Brother Thomas Armstrong, a son of Andrew Armstrong. He has been traveling several years. he people seem to well pleased with him and I hope, that he may do much good. Andrew Armstrong always inquires about you and wishes to be remembered to you. Dear Uncle, I often think of you and your dear family and think what a pleasure it would be to me if I would only be permitted to see you all once more in this life, but that seems to be out of the question; but I haves sweet hope

that I shall meet many of you in the climes of Glory and it is a cheering thought to me that I shall meet many of my friends whose parting will be no more forever.

Dear Uncle, I hope that you will write soon for I assure you that it is one of the greatest pleasures in the world for us to hear from you all. Remember me in all your prayers. I must now close by subscribing myself,

Your Affectionate Niece,

(Signed)
Susan Carter

Fail not in writing as soon as you receive this. Father and Mother and all of the family joins me in love to you all.

From: William Carter. Postmarked: Jackson C. H. Oct. 21st. $.10

Addressed: Matthew Mizell Esqr. Piscola Postoffice, Lowndes County, Ga.
Jackson County, October 19th, 1848

Dear Matthew:

Your kind letter dated the 26th May last, came to hand duly sometime since, which found us all in good health (except myself). I am and have been for several years afflicted with pains. I should have answered yours sooner but have not been able to find out what to write respecting the amount due you. I have since seen Brother Matthew and he informed me that he held in his hands two hundred and fifty dollars. I have in my hands Sixty-four dollars which I have ready for you at anytime, making in all three hundred and fourteen dollars. Brother Matthew wishes me to say to you that if you do not come this winter he wants to know when you will come; so you will please inform him so that he can be ready for you.

We are at present enjoying good health. Bro. Matthew and family are all well. My children are all off except William and Mary. I have seen and heard from them all lately. All are well. I would be very glad to see you all. But I fear that we will not meet in this life. It would be a great pleasure to us for you to pay us a visit; and hope that you will not fail to come and spend some time with us.

I am sorry to hear that Sister's mind has become impaired. I presume you would wish how we are doing in our poor county. I believe that we have no right to complain. We are making a good living and have good health and peace. Brother Matthew's children are all married except four, William, Griffin, Martha and John.

We are making a pretty good crop of corn, peas and potatoes which is the principal crop raised in this country.

You will perhaps wish to know where all my children that are married, are living. John is living in a half-mile of me. Sabra is living in Jasper County in this state. Elizabeth is living in about 28 miles from me in Green County in this state. Susan is living in Mississippi City (on the seaboard) in Harrison County in this state, about 60 miles from

me. My family are all in the church except John and I hope that we are all trying to get to that land of rest that reseineth for the people of God.

We have quite a revival of religion in our circuit. We have had three very good camp-meetings and I hope much good was effected. I hope if we do not meet in this life that we will all meet in Heaven. I hope to meet your dear Mother there where our troubles and trials will all be over.

You must now fail to write as soon as you get this. Remember me to all the family. My family all joins to me in sending love to you all.

Your Affectionate Uncle,

(Signed)
William Carter

(The following letter was attached to previous letter)

From: Mrs. Susannah Carter Evans.

Addresses: Matthew Mizell.

Dear Cousin Matthew:

As Father has not filled his paper I have taken up my pen to drop you a line as I have neglected answering your last letter which come to hand some several months after I was married. As I presume you have not heard who I married I will tell you I married I will tell you I married a young widower, a local preacher, a very good looking, and I think, a very good man. So you may guess that I think I have done very well. You must not fail to come and see us when you come to Father's.

I neglected to tell you my husband's name, which I will do now: His name is Wesley G. Evans; he is also Clerk of the Circuit, Probate and Police Courts of Harrison County. We live in Mississippi City on the seacoast. We are now at Father's. I have been quite sick but am now up about. We were married on the 30th January, 1847. We have no children. My husband has a son by his first wife. Excuse the brevity of this note, and write me again and soon and often. I am, as ever

,

Your Affectionate Cousin,

(Signed)
Susannah Evans

From: William Barbour Carter.

Postmarked: Jackson County C.H. Miss. June 10. $ .03.

Addressed: Mr. Matthew Mizell, Lowndes Co. Piscola P.O. Ga.

Jackson County, Miss. June 1st ,1856.

Dear Cousin:

I have had a disposition to write to you for many years but have neglected doing so until at present. Myself and family are well at present. Our family is small. We have two little girls, age 18 months and the youngest two months probably. Of the death of Father; he died three years ago last October. Mother is living with me; her health is good with one exception; she is troubled very much with the rheumatism in her feet principally; yet she can get about the place pretty well.

My brothers and sisters are all married some five years ago. Sister Sabra is living about 125 miles from me; Susannah about 65; Elizabeth about 30; Sister Mary 5 miles; Casandra 1 mile. John is living in ½ mile. I have heard from those living at a distance not long since. The family are all well with one exception: John has had a very severe attack of the typhoid fever. He was two months not able to get out of the yard but he is improving; he can ride about the place pretty well.

The family connection are all well I believe. Uncle Matthew Carter's youngest daughter Susan died February last, and left a husband and three little children. Uncle Edmond Goff died about four years ago after lingering some three or four months. It is hard to tell what his complaint was. Aunt Jane died last night about 9 o'clock; she has been complaining for several years, and about five months ago she began to decline very so that she has not been able to get in & out for eight weeks. Her complaint, dyspepsia I think. The word came to me that she was dead since I commenced writing. We will go the burying this evening. We have had a good many deaths in our county within six months past principally old people.

I saw a letter to you from Uncle Matthew Carter. You desired to know something about the money that was coming to you. I am not prepared to give you the information you would wish. I have in my possession some 65 dollars of the estate; you could have had it thirty years ago as well as now. I expect you could get the balance if you would come after it.

Dear Cousins, I have often (thought) of my relations in Ga., with a desire to see you all but if it is not our privilege to see each other in the flesh may we meet in that land where troubles are not known no more; but remain,

Sincere Cousin,

Wm. B. Carter.

From: William Barbour Carter. No Postmark-envelope missing.

Addressed: Apparently to Matthew Mizell, Piscola Ga.

Jackson County, Miss. July 7, 1857.

Dear Cousin:

I received yours of the 17th Aug. about two weeks after date. We were gratified to hear from you all and at the same time made mourn. Through the mercies of God myself and family are well with one exception: Mother is not well and never is. She is troubled with some chronic diseases such as she never gets well of. She but seldom is confined to her bed. She stays occasionally a week with Sister Mary. The connection are generally well. I have heard from all the family within two months. Uncle Matthew he is beginning to look very old indeed. His health is good for his age, his mind also; his old Negro woman died about two months ago, the first Negro he ever owned.

Cousin Jane Goff, Aunt Casandra's oldest daughter, was married about 18 months ago to Wm. Carter, Uncle Matthew's second son by his last wife.

(Here is the end of the first page. There seems to be a page missing out of the original.)

She died about six weeks ago. We are prepared to say that his loss is her gain. She was one of the most excellent women I ever saw. She seemed perfectly resigned to go. All that she regretted was leaving her husband; they had no children. I believe she is all the one of your connection that have died since I wrote you, save that of infants.

One word respecting our country: I think we have a pretty good country for poor people. I suppose our market to be about as good and convenient as any in the Union. Our uplands are poor. We have good swamp lands but there is some ill-convenience attending it. Last year was a very bad crop year. The most of people have to buy corn. I was so fortunate as to make a plenty to spare.

Dear Cousin, I often think of you all with a great desire to see you all. Sometimes I am almost brought to believe that it is our duty to do so but it is hard to get about. Dear Cousin, if we never see each other in this world I hope we will meet around our Father's throne above. May this be our happy lot! I must come to a close. Pardon all mistakes. In looking over I see many. I presume you will understand them.

Write us soon. Mother and wife join me in love to you all. No more but remain,

Your Affectionate Cousin until Death

(Signed)
Wm. B. Carter.

From: Mrs. Jane Everett. Undated and unpostmarked.

Addressed: "Mrs. Susan Mizell, Telfair County, Oackmulgy."
"The polite attention of Mrs. Everett." By hand.

Dear Cousin:

I received your letter and was glad to hear that you was all so heathy, but I read some of it in sorrow. We are all well except Joshua; the fever and ague holds him yet. I am sorry it has turned out that I could not come to see you. I don't know as I have anything to inform you. Here is a part if mittings that Aunt sent by Peter Cone but I never had a chance to send them before; they was Uncle's and she desired for Cousin Griffin to have them. Tell Cousin Griffin that he must excuse Joshua for not writing for he is now confined to his bed with a fever.

Dear Cousin, I hope you and Cousin Griffin won't fail writing every opportunity as we can't see one another. I han't nothing more to write but if I could see you I could think of a thousand things. So no more but remain,

Your Loving Cousin until Death
(Signed)
Jane Everett.

Joshua joins me in love to you all. Sarah begs to be remembered to you all. You must excuse Sarah's bad writing for it is night and the (sentence unfinished).

From: Mrs. Naomi Goff. Apparently sent by hand.

Addressed: Griffin Mizell, Telfair County, Ga. March 7, 1813.

Dear Sister:

After my kind love and compliments to you I have to inform you that we are all well at present, thanks be to God for it. Hoping these lines will find you in the same.

Sister, we are a long ways apart and it grieves my heart to think of you. I should be glad as Brother Griffin is not satisfied if he would come here. I think he would not be sorry for it. If I had my dear sister and her family and a few more I should be satisfied.

We have no preaching with us and I am sorry for it, but I hope you

will remember me in your prayer. I should be glad if you would wright to me the first chance for I should be glad to hear from you. We have got another son and we call it Wiley. I have nothing more to inform you but remain,

Your Loving Sister,

(Signed)
Naomi Goff

From: Mrs. Jane Everett. Letter evidently sent by hand.

Addressed: Mrs. Susannah Mizell (no address)

Sweetwater, 5th December, 1813.

Dear Cousin:

You will find by the information of these few lines that we are all well but I can inform you that we have had more sickness in our family this fall than we have ever had in our lives. I want to see you all very much. I expect to come this winter.

I can inform you that I have got another air (heir) and call its name Alizabeth. I should be very glad if you could come back if you think that you could do any better, but if not, I should be very glad if you could come to see us. I have got much to wright about that I cannot write it all. So no more but remains,

Your Loving Cousin until Death

(Signed)
Jane Everett.

I beg to be remembered to Cousin Griffin and the children. Sarah gives her best love to you all.

From: Mrs. Jane Everett. "By hand of Mr. Jehu Everett."

Addressed: Susannah Mizell, Telfair County.

October the 10th, 1814.

Dear Cousin:

I now sit down to write you a few lines to let you know how we all are. Joshua has now been sick for about two months and I am in hope that he is upon the mend. I have been sick one week and I don't think that I was ever much sicker in my life than I was for one or two days but I am hearty at present. Our Family has been generally sickly but all are hearty now only Joshua.

I hope that these few lines will find you all hearty. I have nothing very interesting to communicate to you. I think if life lasts and nothing happens more than I know of at this time we will come to see you this winter. I don't think that I have ever wanted to see you half so bad before in my life. I han't —nothing more worth relating but if I could see you I have a thousand things to tell you.

Do pray, Cousin, don't fail writing every opportunity. Joshua joins me in love to you all. So nothing more but remains—

Your Loving Cousin until Death

(Signed)
Jane Everett

Sarah begs to be remembered to you all.

From: Jane Everett (No postmark)

Addressed: "Mrs. Susannah Mizell, Living in the Oackmulgy, in Telfair County."

October the 25th, 1815.

Dear Cousin:

Your letter dated the 10th of September came safe to hand, and I was truly glad to hear of your health. Dear Cousin, I do think that health is the greatest blessing that ever anybody possessed. I really am afraid that I never shall be so happy as to say that we are all well, but thank God, we are all in reasonable health at this

time except Joshua; I don't know whether he gets any better or no. Dear cousin, I ain't able to inform you the trouble that it gives me. Dear cousin, if you want to see me any worse than I do you you want to see me very bad I can tell you. I think I never wanted to see you so bad in my life. If it please God for Joshua to ever git well I will try very hard to come to see you. I am in hopes that if life last we shall meet again.

I han't heard nothing from the western country since you sent me them letters. I have a chance to write to them now and I think that we will try and make use of it. it is one Mr. Gill that lives a considerable distance the other side of Auntts; he has come hear (here) upon some business and he says that he will carry letters for us and leave them so that they can git them. He starts back in about three weeks. I do pray write every chance. I would be glad to receive one every chance. I would be glad to receive one very week if I knew it was possible and will do the same.

Joshua joins me in love to you all. I remain,

Your Most Loving and Affectionate Cousin until Death,

(Signed)
Jane Everett

Sarah gives me warmest love to the girls and also the rest of the family.

From: Mrs. Jane Everett "Sent by hand of Mr. James (torn)...."

Addressed: Mrs. Susannah Mizell, Telfair County, Ocmulgee P.O.

Bulloch County, Canoochee, April 25, 1816.

My Dear Cousin:

These few lines comes to let you know that we are all in reasonable health at present, thank God, except Joshua; he is laid up with boils. I hope that this will find you and yours enjoying the greatest health that this world affords. dear Cousin, I hope that you will freely forgive me for not coming to see you as I promised. Cousin Griffin, it was not in my power to come. I did want to come very bad but Sarah was not at home so that I could not come nor wright neither.

I received a letter from you by some of your neighbors I've forgot who he is. I should be extremely glad if it was a possible thing for me to receive one from you every week. I hope and pray that you won't quit writing. I will write every

chance. I hope that you won't think hard of me for not writing sooner as Sarah han't bin at home none hardly since Cousin Griffin was here.

Dear Cousin, I can't help but thinking that I shall come to see you but can't promise when; the more I think of you the worse I want to see you. I think if it is a possible thing for Mr. Button ever to go away so that the Family won't be so large I think you will come, come let what will be. I can write but that ain't like we was a conversing together; we could talk of a thousand things that we can't write.

I don't know as I have anything else to write, so I quit by subscribing myself, dear Cousin, your most loving Cousin. Joshua joins me in love to you & Cousin Griffin & the children; also I bid you Goodnight.

(Signed)
Jane Everett

Sarah begs me to give her warmest love to all the family.

From: Mrs. Jane Everett. (No postmark)

Addressed: "Mrs. Susannah Mizell, Telfair County, Oackmulgy,
In care of Mr. John Fletcher."

Pollock County, August the 9th, 1818.

Dear Cousin:

Yours dated the 1st of this instant gave me much satisfaction to hear that you are all well except yourself and to hear that you are on the mend. As for my family they are all about but to say that they are well I can't. I han't had a well family now going on 3 or 4 years. As for myself I was brought the 1st of this instant to bed with a fine son which I han't yet named. I'm tolerable hearty.

I was very glad to hear of your crop being so likely as we have been very much hurt with the drouth.

Dear Cousin, excuse me for not writing no oftener as opportunity permit me much oftener but I will confess that I am somewhat neglectful tho I am apprehensive that I write sometimes and you don't never git them. I would be glad that we could hear from each other every week if it was possible. I will write every chance that I can. I want you to do so, too. We han't heard nothing from the western country. You can't want to see me worse than I do you. Oh, that we could only meet once more! I can't say nothing about coming only I want to come very much but the children. I suspect will some of them come this winter and I want you to write the first chance and let me know if Jane will or may come and stay with me awhile and

I will send her back whenever wanted; but I want you to let her come and stay with me as long as you possible can. Dear cousin, I must quit by subscribing myself, Your loving and most Affectionate Cousin. Sarah with myself desires to be remembered to you all. So no more.

(Signed)
Jane Everett

From: Mrs. Jane Everett. No postmark.

Addressed: Mrs. Susan Mizell, Telfair County, Oakmulgy.

August the 30th, 1818.

Dear Cousin:

I now having an opportunity of writing I shan't wait your answer from the other as I think it my duty to write and to fulfill my promise in the other, although there is nothing worth communicating.

We are all reasonable well and hoping this will find you and yours also. We hadn't had the least accounts of our negroes. Excuse the shortness of my letter; if you please, as I hope the next will be longer. I shall look now constantly for a letter from you and hope when I do that you will write that Jane is a coming. No more but hoping that we may once more meet. Sarah with myself wishes to be remembered to you, Cousin Griffin, the girls and all the rest of the children.

So I remain,

Your loving Cousin until death, Good Knight.

(Signed)
Jane Everett.

From: William and Polly Mizell. (Sent by hand of Dr. Fitzgerald).

Addressed: "Griffin Mizell of John Fletcher, Telfair County, Oakmulgy."

Jones County, Ga. March 29th , 1812.

Dear Brother and Sister:

I rec'd your letter which informed me of your health of which I was glad to hear. These lines leaves us all well at present thanks be to God for His mercies, except a cut on Luke's foot which is now on the mend. As it respects my selling and moving I am not fully able to tell you how it will be. At present the time being so very hard that I have not as yet had an opportunity of selling my land to any advantage but as there is a good many people who wants to move from Washington (county?) here the probability is I may sell in the fall. I expect to be down and see you sometime in the fall, but what exact time I can't tell you now.

Bro. Foard has nearly given out I believe; if he moves I reckon it will be to Milledgeville.

Dear bro. I think of you everyday, longing to see you and all my friends there. Pray for us; We have our conflicts in life but through grace we are trying to make our way to Heaven. Oh that God may help us all so to live that if we are parted awhile in this world we may meet in Heaven where parting is no more. No more but remain–

Your Loving Brother till Death,

(Signed)
Wm. & Polley Mizell.

N.B.: Bro. William (torn) family is all well. We wish to be remembered in love to Bro. John Fletcher and family, and in particular to Ziba. Tell him to write to me when he has opportunity. Tell him I have never had any information from the low country. I hope you will write by all opportunities.

W.M.

From: William Mizell. Postmarked: "Opellikern, May 10th. Free."

Addressed: Mr. Griffin Mizell, Telfair County, Temperance office, Ga.

Alabama, Russell County, 9th of May 1845.

Dear Brother and Sister:

These lines leaves us all well but myself. I have been in a declining state of health a good while and last week was confined mostly to my bed and too (?) medicine. I seem to be some little better but I am not well.

I received your letters some good while ago and ought to have answered it sooner but it is I have failed to do so til now.

We was glad to hear from Sister Susannah had recovered from her affliction. I hope these lines will find you all well. I live at the same place this year that I sold: I have got a small place joining this that I expect to settle next winter if I live that long.

I have with me three daughters, Adeline, Jane and Martha. The boys have all left me to shift for themselves and I have to hire a good deal in order to get along, which is a good deal against me. but my trust is still in God for time and eternity: He that has fed me last will feed me still. I must be calm and sink into His will. I often think of late that my Master has not much use for me in this world, and that it will not be very long before I shall be removed. My sincere prayer is that all may be well at that hour, and that I may be permitted to lye down in peace: to this prayer I say "Amen!"

Sister Pinson lives at Bro. William's and enjoys tolerable health for a person so old. Our friends are well generally with the exception of old Sister Williams; she is a good deal afflicted at times.

My brother, I want to see you but perhaps never shall till time is lost in eternity. Farewell; G. Mizell!

(Signed)
Wm. Mizell

From: William Mizell Postmarked, Opellika, Ala. May 30th. $ .05.

Addressed: Mr. Griffin Mizell, Sharp's Store, Lowndes County, Georgia.

Alabama, Russell County, May 29th, 1846.

Dear Brother and Sister:

I rec'd your letter which informed me of your health and of your move to Lowndes county. We are all in common health at this time through mercy, and our friends are as far as I know. Sister Pinson keeps about but looks very old.

Now, I want to inquire something about your country, for several of us have something of a moving feaver. And first, are you pleased with the country? Is there a good deal of good land, and how does it sell, both improved and that in the woods? Is it well watered? Is your drinking water good? Have you wells or springs? What is your chance of trade? Is it healthy? What is the chance of fish? Is incests bad, flies and mosquitoes & c? How is Society? Is there any religion and preaching there? Who of our relations live in that country, and what would be the chance of a young man's getting a school there next fall? If you thought the chance good I would persuade William to go there and try for a school toward the fall. What do you know of Madison and Columbia counties in Florida; and do you suppose that is a good country?

Dear brother, I think I have not much more at this time. As to religion it is rather dull at this time. By the grace of God we are trying to move on about as usual. I pray the blessing of God upon you for time and eternity. Farewell!

(Signed)
Wm. Mizell

When you receive this, write me an answer.
W.M.

From: Jane and Lydia ----------. Postmarked: China Hill, Feb. 3rd. 18 3/4.

Addressed: Mr. Griffin Mizell, Telfair County, Temperance P.O. Ga.

Feb. 2nd, 1828.

Dear Father and Mother:

I have taken up my pen to try and write you a few lines which will let you know that we are all alive and in tolerable health except myself; I am in a bad situation with my old affliction. Seems to get worse. I have seen Dr. Hickenson since I came home and he has prescribed some medicine which he says will be good for me to take. I have been very unwell all this week from an attack of influenza but have got much better. The connections are generally well except Betsy Ann; she is very low but is on the mend. She was first attacked with influenza and had harly recovered from that when she took the pleuresy. As this is the first time we have written to you since we got home it might have been proper to have said something about our get ---- (torn).----- We had very cold weather as I expect you recollect. We reached (torn)----- Wednesday evening after (word torn out) of your house on Thursday and found things purty much as we left them.

The price of cotton took such a fall about Christmas that Griffin did not sell until a week or two ago; it took a little rise; he then carried it to Tallahassee and sold it and bought a tolerable nice riding carriage, price one hundred and twenty-five dollars, a barrel of flour at fourteen dollars. Corn sells here at one dollar fifty cents. I do not know that I have anything more that would be interesting to you, though perhaps you have not heard that Zabad is married. He was married to night before Christmas to Miss Monroe.

Lydia has enjoyed good health with very little exception from the time she left home. She has gained several pounds in weight. She seems as well satisfied as could be expected.

We wish to see you all very much. If it could be so we wish you to write to us as soon as you get this and let us know all about the family and the affairs of the family. So nothing more at present, but remain,

Your Affectionate Daughters; Remember us
Affectionately and pray for us.

(Signed)
Jane and Lydia

From: Jane -------- (daughter). No postmark.

Addressed: Griffin Mizell, Temperance P.O. Telfair County, Ga.

Gadsden county, March 7th.

Dear Father and Mother:

I have once more taken up my pen to let you know something of our situations. Through mercy was are all in tolerable health. Susan has had the toothache a good deal this winter but it does not hinder her from being fat. I think she says she weighs more now than she ever did. There is some complaint among the connections. Rebecca Ball has been badly afflicted nearly all the winter. We hardly know what to call her complaint. Some think it to be scrofula. Susan Howard is down sick with fever and pain in her side. Sarah Ann is also complaining a good deal. Some of our neighbors also. Mrs. Morgan and Mrs. Spivey are also in bad health. James Nickelson lost his wife a few weeks ago; she died of liver complaint.

Sarah and William got safe home about the last of January, having been on the road more than three weeks on account of high waters.

We heard from Alabama a few days ago by Mr. Burr. He says the connections are generally well.

I must now tell you that we have not received any letter from you since I wrote last. The reason we cannot account for. I wrote in my last for Elizabeth to let me know whether I should send her money to her by mail or not, but as I have received no answer I have concluded to send it as I expects she needs it, two dollars from the widow and one from me. Since writing the above I have concluded not to send the money as I have received no order and we cannot make the necessary change. We have fixed upon another plan, for Elizabeth to get paid: Griffin says if you collected any money from Joab to pay her the three dollars and he will credit Jacob's note that much.

We wish you would write oftener or if you cannot Matthew or some of the girls might write sometimes. They certainly don't think as much about us as we do them. We wish to see you all very much. It is now almost six months since we left your house. How fast time flies away; it will soon land us in eternity. May God enable us by his grace to make a wise improvement of our short stay on earth. As for myself I think I can say that my confidence gets stronger and I feel more stimulated to press on in the way of Heaven.

Old Mrs McCrimmon happened here since I commenced my letter. She gave me some account of her situation. She is in a house without any chimney and is on sufferance only as the neighbors give her something to eat. She wishes you if you have any chance, to send on to some of her connections to come after her. She is in very bad health, hardly able to do anything. The widow Mrs. Dougle has moved

off four or five miles to a vacant house and Daniel is in Alabama.

I did not think when I commenced this letter to have written much this time but when I begin I find so much I wish to say that I never know when to stop but I must stop for want of time. Remember us to all the family, also William and Flora, John and Lydia: Write to us where they are living. Nothing more at present but remain as ever,

Your Affectionate Daughter,
Jane

From: Jane and Elizabeth (Mizell?). Postmarked: Salubrity, Fla. 22nd Mar. $ .8 3/4.

Addressed: Mr. Griffin Mizell, Telfair County, Jacksonville, Ga.

March 19th.

Dear Mother and Father:

I once more take up my pen to try to write you a few lines to let you know about our welfare as that is the most of importance. We have to write that Griffin and Elizabeth are well but I am far from it, though I keep about the most of my time. The connections are generally well I believe.

I have not yet received a letter from you since Joab left us. Let us expect you have written before this time.

I would say a few words about our preacher. He is quite a new beginner. We think him to be a fine young man and hope he will make a good preacher. His name is R.E. Oslin.

Times are very cold as to religion but we hope it will not be so much longer.

Old Mrs. Hall (or Hale or Head?) died four or five weeks ago and Mr. Moggan was married last Sunday evening to Miss Eliza Flake.

Elizabeth says she feels as well satisfied as she could we expect though she is very delirious to see you all as I also am.

Remember us affectionately to all the family, also to Brother John and Sister Casandra. Pray for us, and believe us

Your Affectionate Children

(Signed)
Jane and Elizabeth

From: John C. Mizell. Outer sheet or envelope missing.

Addressed: Matthew Mizell, Piscola, Lowndes co. Ga. (apparently).

Telfair County, Georgia, October 15th, 1859.

Dear Uncle:

I seat myself this afternoon for the purpose of trying to write you in complyance with the letter you wrote Papa not long since, which come safe to hand yesterday. I hope it will be just as agreeable with you as if Papa had written you himself.

We are all well at present. Papa has been very sick with Diarrhea and a very hot fever with it but appears tp be very well to-day. It is a very general complaint in this section. I am in good health myself nor have I have been since I had fever last fall.

I am sorry to hear that Aunt Martha has been sick with fever. I know how to sympathize with sick persons for I have had my share of it. I hope she gets the better of her sickness.

The people are not very well in this section of country. Crops are generally good in Telfair this year. Ours is pretty good especially the corn. Our cotton would have done very well if it had not been for the hard rains which I think made it shed its bloom and which I think is a very general complaint. I think we will make an average crop.

I am glad to learn your country is improving so rapidly. I wish I could say so of ours. There has been some talk of our Hailroad but I fear it will be a long time before it is completed.

Our county candidates were as follows: Col. Paine vs. Dr. Humphrey for the Senate. Paine has beaten Humphrey, the Democratic candidate, about 30 majority. Malcolm McRae was nominated for the House and Ned McDuffie and Wm. Rodgers came out against them but to no use. McRae beat then both and I am very glad that he did. Well, as the fellow says, it's too good to talk about.

We have a pretty good school here now. John K. Williamson the teacher but I fear it will come to a close in a few weeks as it will be getting cool weather and besides John has so much work on hand he will be obliged to discontinue it. I am going to school myself, but I must come to a close for I count myself a very poor scholar and fear you can hardly read this letter and it is getting so dark that I can't see the lines on this paper.

I hope you and Aunt M. will come to see us as you have never been on a visit to see us yet. I was thinking I would go out to see you this fall; if I do reckon one of the girls will go with me. If I was to go probably it would be in addition to my health. I must close for something to write about. I remain as ever,

Your Nephew,

(Signed)
John C. (torn).....

From: Joab Carter Mizell. (Envelope missing)

To: Matthew Mizell, Quitman, Ga.

Bradford County, Fla. Oct. 13th, 1872.

Dear Brother:

After a long time I have taken up my pen to write you a few lines. I ought to have written before now but have neglected it as usual. We are all in our usual health at present. We have had no sickness in our family this fall and there has been very little in this settlement though there has been a good deal in some parts of the country I believe. Mary Hodges has some chill and fever in her family and Mr. Hale has had an attack but he is on the mend now.

We have made pretty good crops in this part of the country especially corn. Cotton has been injured pretty badly by what is called blight here; it is pretty much like rust; it sheds its leaves and bolls. The caterpillars have also injured it some but there will still be considerable amount of cotton made. I planted only about eight acres. I suppose I will make between 2000 and 2500 pounds of seed cotton; it is worth $ .10 per pound in the seed, case, and $ .12 in trade. I think I will have mine ginned. I sold mine last year for $ .68 and I think the prospect is fair for it to be worth as much this year.

I do not know whether you have heard that Nattie is married or not. He was married in August last; his wife's name was Gunter (or Zuntor?) Doke; she is in her 17th year and is tolerably good looking and I believe is industrious and I hope she will make him a good wife. They are living with us.

John Ball is teaching school for us now. I am sending Catie and Sallie. John is a steady boy and is well thought of by everybody. I think he will make a man of considerable intelligence.

There is some excitement about the election now. The candidates on both sides are stumping the state. It is considered pretty certain that we will carry our state election as the Conservatives of the Republican Party and the Democrats are running the same ticket. With regard to the presidential election is concerned I think Grant will be elected. I do not feel a great deal of interest in the matter but I had some rather Greely would be elected than Grant. If he will perform his promises I believe

it would be to our advantage to elect him, but I have no doubt but Grant will be elected, and we will have another four years' radical rule.

Warren and Wm. are still at Wellborn; and now in conclusion I want to know when you are coming. Write soon and let us know.

Your Brother,

(Signed)
J.C. Mizell

From: Joab C. Mizell. (No envelope with letter).

Addressed: Matthew Mizell. Quitman. Ga. (evidently).

Bradford Co. Fla. Oct. 9, 1875.

Dear Brother:

I will try once more to write you a few lines. I received a letter from you a few days ago. I was glad to hear from you once more. We are all in our usual health and I believe our relatives here are all well. I fear of a few cases of sickness in the neighborhood but as a general thing it is healthly.

We have had an uncommonly dry summer here and I thought awhile that we would hardly make bread but corn crops have turned out a great deal better than was expected, and I think there was enough made to supply the country. But other crops are cut very short especially potatoes are very poor. Cotton crops are very poor. Our orange trees are very full of oranges but they are not as large as common by reason of the drought.

I suppose you have had some of the Telfair folks to see you. I would have been glad for them to have come on to see us but I reckon they thought they could not leave home so long. If any of them come out again, tell them that we shall expect them to come down to Florida and look at our country.

Our Florida Hardshells have just held their Association near Wellborn & I understand they are badly torn up. I hear that they separated some one way and some another. The churches down here are very much split up so I hear. I suppose you know as much about the difficulty in the church as I do and perhaps more. I believe T. Jones is in favor of the new doctrine from what I hear though I have not heard him say a word on the subject. It does appear to me that the hardshell church is on the decline and must go still lower as knowledge and intelligence increases.

You say you think it likely some of you will come down sometime this fall or winter. I hope you will not fail. We would be more glad to see it than hear

tell of it. As ever,

Your Brother,

(Signed)
J.C. Mizell

From: John K. Williamson (Envelope Missing)

Addressed: Matthew Mizell, Esqr. Quitman Ga.

China Hill, Ga. July 4th, 1881.

Matthew Mizell, Esqr.
Dear Old Uncle:

I hope you and your little family are well, happy and prosperous. I wrote you aver two months ago and have been waiting patiently to get an answer from you but no answer has ever reached me, and I have concluded to write again, thinking you never received my letter or that something was wrong; at any rate I am very anxious to hear from you, and I want you to write me forthwith upon the reception of this communication.

I have nothing of interest to communicate. Things in general remain in about status quo as when I wrote you before.

Myself and family are in good health, and I believe, all the connection are well.

Crops are rather sorry in this section owing to the long drouth we have had until just a little over a week ago. We had so much rain in the early part of the year that many people and myself with the balance did not have as much time to prepare our ground as it should have been. After so much rain the seasons ceased right square off as the saying is, and was preceeded by a long term of hot & dry weather. I have the poorest prospect for a corn crop I have ever had since I have been farming, though my cotton looks well.

A negro man was killed at the old McKinnon place a few days ago. We heard the gun but paid no attention to it as it is common for freedmen to be shooting around. The man had a wife and she says there was no one present but themselves and that the gun was leaning against the house, started to fall, he attempted to catch it and it was discharged. The whole charge entered his breast and he died in a few minutes, but almost everyone that knows anything about the parties believe that the negro's wife killed him as they were not on good terms, had an

altercation a little while before and other circumstances in connection pointing in that direction.

Wiley Williams, son of oldman Joe Williams, lost his wife about a week ago. She was a daughter of Mitchell Wilcox. I learned she bade him and her children farewell, told Wiley to pray all the time. I do not know whether Wiley ceases to pray or not but he has not ceased to sell whiskey. "The smiles of joy, the tears of woe, deceitful shine, deceitful flow; there is nothing true but heaven."

If nothing intervenes more than I am aware of I will pay you a visit this coming fall, and there is nothing I look to with more pleasure than when I shall start to your house; yes, there is one thing, that is when I get there and see you all.

We anticipate moving next year somewhere for a year or two, most probably to Hawkinsville to school our boy, but in the event we do not move we will send him anyhow as he will soon be grown and as he is so much Williamson he will marry, I am afraid, before he is 21.

I know Cousin Eliza in this time must be an expert on the piano; and with all your sweet faces and the sweet music that Cousin Eliza will discourse I anticipate a treat that will be long remembered and not soon forgotten.

I must come to a close. May God ever bless you, my loved relatives and friends and should I never see you again on earth Oh, may I meet you all at last in that land where storms and clouds are unknown, where friends never part, tears and sorrow never come, but where happiness reigns forever, forever, is the prayer of-
---

Your Nephew,

J.K. Williamson

From: John K. Williamson. (Envelope missing.)

Addressed: Mr. Matthew Mizell, Quitman, Ga.

China Hill, Ga. Feb. 10th, 1882.

Matthew Mizell, Esqr.
My dear old Uncle:

Yours of the 26th of last month came to hand on last Friday. Was just going to write you when I received your letter. I was truly glad to hear of your welfare indeed.

It has been too long since I heard from you, and too long since I wrote

to you. Such ought not to be the case as life and opportunity are so short and uncertain, but I have passed through some of the cold and troubled waters of life since I wrote you last and have been subject to spells of the deepest melancholy, and have thought at times the days had come when I could say I had no pleasure in them.

Dear old mother died on the 7th of Sept., aged over 80 years. She I know, was the best friend I had on earth, and since her death circumstances and people have given me a rather difficult notion of humanity and matters. Father, I am sorry to tell you married a Mrs. Burnham in January. I hope he will be happy but I am fearful he will rue it at his leisure. I will say no more about that matter.

It was out of my power to visit you in the fall as I had so much to do, and see after, and we live in the vicinity of so many sorry freedmen, that is a risk to leave home by itself. Though it would be one of the greatest pleasures in the world to me to see you all once more. It is certainly one of the sunny sides of my life to think of the pleasant, sweet , grand time I had at your pleasant home and much more pleasant, dear and lovely family.

You have undoubtedly heard of the death or murder of Mr. J.W. Griffin of Eastman, Dodge county, who was killed a few weeks past in Fla. He had accumulated quite a fortune rising from almost abject poverty to independence. He made his fortune dealing in lands, and it is said by many he dealt very crookedly. He had many (word illegible) in this and adjoining counties. Though a very clever man I liked him very well, and his death verifies the verses of Gray's Elegy on human life:

"The boast of heraldy, the _____ of power
And all that beauty, all that wealth e'er.
Await alike the inevitable hour–
The paths of glory lead but to the grave!"

Crops were short in this section last year. Some are without corn already and I anticipate a hard time for many during the present year. I made the poorest crop I ever made in my life, that is of corn.

Soney went to the great Cotton Exposition in Atlanta. He has highly delighted at what he saw and thinks it was a big thing. I will commence teaching on next Monday. I will teach mostly on Soney's account as we cannot give our consent to send him off yet.

I am anxious to move down into your country but I cannot move unless I could sell out here, and that is impossible as there is no one in this section able to buy me out. Probably by advertising I might get a bid from a distance.

We have a great blessing in this section this winter to help out the short crops of corn, that is a good mast in the swamp. I have not given my hogs any corn; just enough to keep them gentle. We will have plenty of bacon to do us provided we can save it all.

I must close as the mail will soon be on hand and I must repair to the office. Give my love to all your family. I often think of Cousin Eliza and Susan

playing a duet. Cousin Susan has gone to that land where she plays on a golden harp, to a new song, such as has never entered into our imagination to conceive of its granduer and sweetness. Cousin Eliza, bless her pure, spotless soul, may she live long and happy, and may dear, kind Aunt Martha be spared to you and may all the good and none of the evils of life be yours, is the prayer of–

Your Devoted Nephew

(Signed)
J.K. Williamson

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Miscellaneous Note

Griffin Meazels, Esq:

Sir: Please examine Zalmon's books. Look for John McLeod's acct. on the ledger, receive payment and give him a receipt. If the neighbors want rum let them have it or any other article in the store.

(Signed)
J. Reid

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A Deed of Gift

TO ALL PEOPLE TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME:

I, William Mizell, do send Greeting. Know Ye, that I, the said William Mizell of the State of Georgia in the County of Screven, farmer for and in consideration of the love, good will and affection which I have and do bear towards my dear son Griffin Mizell of the same state and county, farmer, have given and granted, and by these presents do freely give and grant unto the said Griffin Mizell, his heirs, executors and administrators, all that tract of land containing three hundred acres, situate and lying in the county aforesaid, on the south side of Ogeechee, granted by his majesty, King George the Third, on the second day of March, 1773, unto the said William Mizell, of which before the signing of these presents I have delivered him the said Griffin Mizell the plot and grant of the said tract of land.

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD all the said tract of land, to him the said Griffin Mizell, his heirs, executors or administrators, from henceforth, as his and their proper right and title, absolutely without any manner of condition.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto put my hand and seal this eleventh day of August and in the nineteenth year of American Independence One thousand, seven hundred and ninety-four.

William Mizell (Seal)

Signed, sealed and delivered in
the presence of:

J. Williams
Jarvis Jackson
Robt. Williams

Personally appeared Jarvis Williams who being duly sworn, says that he saw William Mizell sign, seal and deliver the within deed of gift for the use within mentioned, also sayeth that he, Jarvis Jackson and Robert Williams witnesseth the same and himself.

Certified pr. me, this 15th August, 1794:
Benj. Lanier, J.P. J. Williams

The within deed recorded in Register
Book A, folio 6, this 27th day of August, 1794.

Certified by me: Thos. Hylton, C.S.C. Screven Co.

Warranty Deed

GEORGIA:

THIS INDENTURE made the first day of April in the year of our Lord, One thousand eight hundred and five, between John Burnett and Polsey Burnett, his wife, of the County of Bullock and the state aforesaid, of the one part, and Griffin Mizell of the county and the state aforesaid, of the other part witnesseth:

That the said John and Polsey Burnett, his wife, for and consideration of the sum of One Hundred dollars to them in hand paid at and before the sealing and delivery of these presents the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, has granted bargained, sold, aliened, conveyed and confirmed and by these presents doth grant, bargain, sell, alien, convey and confirm unto the said Griffin Mizell, his heirs and assigns, forever, all that tract or parcel of land containing one hundred and fifty acres separated from a tract of land belonging to the said John Burnett containing five hundred and twenty-five acres, more or less; the same lying and being in the County of State aforesaid: bounded west by land of said John Burnett, North by Great Ogeechee River, East by land of Samuel Williams, and South by land of said Griffin Mizell:

TOGETHER with all and singular the improvements, hereditaments and appurtenances whatsoever belonging or in anywise appertaining, and the reversion and reversions, remain and remainders, rents, issues and profits thereof, and all the estate, right, title, interest, inheritance, profit, benefit, claim and demand whatsoever of the said John Burnett & Polsey Burnett, to the said tract of land and premises.

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the said tract of land and premises unto the said Griffin Mizell, his heirs and assigns, to the only proper use, and behoof, of the said Griffin Mizell, his heirs and assigns forever; and the said John Burnett and Polsey his wife, the said tract of land above mentioned, unto the said Griffin Mizell his heirs and assigns, against all persons whomsoever, shall and will warrant and forever defend by these presents.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the said John Burnett and Polsey Burnett hath hereunto set their hands and seals the day and year above written.

In presence of:

John Burnett (Seal)
Polcy Burnett (Seal)

Wm. Mizell, Jr.
Matthew Carter

Received the day and year within written, of and from the within named Griffin Mizell the full consideration money within mentioned, by me:

(Deed unrecorded)

John Burnett

Warranty Deed

STATE OF GEORGIA. BULLOCK COUNTY.

I do hereby for and in consideration of the sum of four hundred dollars well and truly paid to me in hand, do bargain, sell, relinquish, release, confirm and convey unto Griffin Mizell, his heirs and assigns, forever all my right title or claim to a lot of land drawn by me, Joshua Hodges situate in Sixteenth District in the County of Baldwin, containing two hundred and two and half acres, which is known and distinguished in the plan of said district by the Number Eighty-Nine: together with all and singular the rights, members and apputenances thereunto belonging in anywise.

I will forever warrant and defend the same unto Griffen Mizell, his heirs and assigns, from myself, my heirs and assigns, and every other person or persons whomsoever.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal this the tenth day of January in the year of our Lord, One Thousand, Eight Hundred and Eight; and thirty-second in American Independence. (Interlined before assigned).

Signed, sealed and delivered in the presence of:

Joshua Hodges (Seal)

Nathaniel Hodges
Jarvis Jackson, J.I. Ct.

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Miscellaneous Paper

GEORGIA, JONES COUNTY:

Know all men by these presents that I do by these presents constitute and appoint Griffin Mizell my true and lawful attorney so far as to take full and complete control of a judgement in my favor on a note of $25 against Isham Jordan in the Justice's Court held before Josiah Cawthorn in the county of Telfair; receipt for and receive the same & apply the amount to his own use. May 5th, 1813.

(Signed)
Adam G. Saffold

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